11/15/73

Dear Mr. Shriver,

Your December 1, 1972 response to my previous letter was so close to a form letter I have been silent. I now feel impelled to write you again, this time of another concern I do believe you should share to the point of learning what may impend for your family and all others related to John and Robert Kennedy.

Of all the people to whom I might write, if your memory is at all clear, you have an independent means of evaluating me, my motive and what may and may not be expected of me that could be embarrassing to others. I remind you that when you directed the Peace Corp and had not gotten favorable press attention I did conceive how to do it and carried it off entirely on my own. You were impressed, wanted to meet me and did. You asked me to go to work for you. This could have been interpreted as a reward. I declined it. You then immediately convoked a meeting of all your division heads, took me in and introduced me as the man who had more fresh ideas than any you had encountered and told them to pick my mind. I do not think this was an idle gesture. At no time since then have I in any way exploited this. I do not recall ever making any reference to it. It was, however, the kind of thing a farmer, which I then was, could have exploited.

Aside from my efforts with you, I did have communication with the offices of the late Robert and Edward Kennedy and others in the family. I have not made use of this and will not. I could have used it to sell books. I would not and I will not. It will never be more than an historical record.

I do presume that what amounts to a family policy is the result of much thinking by many people, men and women who are well-educated and of some experience in life and in politics. You can buy brains but you can't buy common sense. You come from my part of the country and may have encountered the countryman's phrase, "College educated ignoramus." I do not suggest ignoramus is directly applicable in citing this as relevant. I do suggest ignorance and a blind refusal to make any reasonable, legitimate inquiry, to get outside the closed corporation of minds that began with a policy determination rather than a quest for understanding, including of consequences.

Two cruel and irresponsible movies and at least one related book, perhaps two, are just beginning with a wealthy corporation (heavy Nixon-contributor ownership) promoting them hard. I know the authors and much about them, including their records, capabilities and characters. Their emotional makeups and need, which in at least one case includes an urgent need for vengeance. To date I have several samples of what this can, will and to a degree already has meant. It is, to me, obscene. I have samples of the promotional literature and I have heard two of four hours of a promotional broadcast from Boston, Jerry Williams with Mark Lane, two nights ago. The net effect of all of this, and with National General's wealth it can be extensive, can be considerable personal embarrassment for the senior members of the Kennedy family, regardless of who they are and their relationships and attitudes, and more for their children of whatever age. At some time in the future it may also be hurtful to the children of those children. These things have their own way of becoming lasting and haunting permanent records. There is not much that I, given my present circumstances, can do about this. This little I can I will attempt and have begun to. Nor di I ask help of you. However, I do believe that someone other than I should have an awareness and that it is possible that people who are not members of the family may be able to do what I cannot. I hope so.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg